

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SNM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 /048 W
-----047144 161751Z /50

O R 161620Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6404
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE
DEA WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 1538

DEPT FOR ARA AND S/NM

GENEVA FOR MATHEA FALCO

WHITE HOUSE FOR BOURNE

DEA FOR BENSINGER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJECT: TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL AIDE MEMOIRE

REF: BOGOTA 1493

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AIDE MEMOIRE
CITED IN REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
THE PRESIDENCY
AIDE MEMOIRE

THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA WISHES TO TAKE THE ADVANTAGE OF
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THE INTERVIEW REQUESTED URGENTLY BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE
UNITED STATES TO CALL ATTENTION TO SOME INTERVENTIONS THAT
ARE OCCURRING IN THE JOINT WAR AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING
BEING WAGED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

A. DURING THE HONORED VISIT OF MRS. CARTER, WHO
CONCERNED HERSELF EXTENSIVELY WITH THIS SUBJECT, THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WAS INFORMED THAT AN ULTRA SECRET

DOCUMENT CONTAINING THE NAMES OF PUBLIC FUNCTIONAIRES ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING WOULD BE DELIVERED TO HIM. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MRS. CARTER INCIDENTALLY REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA TO ACCELERATE THE JUDICIAL PROCESSES AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS INVOLVED IN SUCH CRIMES. SHE REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO THE CASE OF A PERSON WITH CONNECTIONS TO AN INFLUENTIAL NORTH AMERICAN SENATOR, A FRIEND OF PRESIDENT CARTER. PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN VOLUNTEERED HIS GOOD OFFICES, NOTING BEFOREHAND, THAT WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE CONCERNED, THE PUBLIC EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY IS RESTRICTED BY THE LIMITATIONS PROPER TO THE SEPARATION OF POWERS AGAINST PERFORMING ACTS OTHER THAN EXERCISING THE VIGILANCE ENVISIONED IN THE CONSTITUTION, THAT THE PROCEDURES AND TERMS STATED IN THE CODES BE EXECUTED RIGOROUSLY AND OPPORTUNELY IN EACH CASE.

B. MONTHS LATER, THE ULTRA SECRET DOCUMENT WAS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PRESIDENT CARTER, FALCON BOURNE. THE SAID DOCUMENT HAS NEVER BEEN IN POSSESSION OF ANY PERSON OTHER THAN THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, WHO HAS TAKEN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VERIFYING THE RESPECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS, RANKING THEM IN ORDER OF THE MOST PROMINENT CASES. C. LATER, A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY REPRESENTATIVE WOLFF VISITED COLOMBIA SEEKING INFORMATION ON DRUG TRAFFICKING AND INTERVIEWED PROMINENT PERSONALITIES IN POLITICS AND THE SECURITY SERVICES.

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D. THE OFFICIAL CONCLUSION OF THE WOLFF COMMITTEE ARE CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ABUSE AND CONTROL OF DRUGS. IN ONE SECTION, IT IS STATED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (SEE) GRAVE PROBLEMS "DUE TO THE ENTRENCHED CORRUPTION AT A HIGH LEVEL, THAT PERMEATES THE SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS." THIS STATEMENT IS INACCURATE IN THAT ALL THAT EXISTS IN THIS RESPECT IS A THREE-YEAR OLD SUSPICION AGAINST THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION, WHO KEPT THE RECORDS AND WHO WAS FIRED AT THE REQUEST OF THE THEN CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (DAS), GENERAL JOSE JOAQUIN MATA LLANA BERMUDEZ.

E. ASIDE FROM THESE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, SENATOR WOLFF HAS GIVEN INTERVIEWS TO ORGANS OF BOTH THE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN PRESS THAT ARE HIGHLY PREJUDICIAL TO THE GOOD NAME OF COLOMBIA AND WHICH LACK A SOLID BASIS. IN THIS RESPECT, HE HAS STATED TO THE WASHINGTON POST THAT IN COLOMBIA THERE ARE NO PRISONERS FOR THIS TYPE OF CRIME, WHICH, OBVIOUSLY, IS A CONTRADICTION OF THE REQUEST BY MRS. CARTER AND THE EMBASSY THAT THE RESPECTIVE PROCESSES BE EXPEDITED.

F. ALSO, SENATOR WOLFF IN A TELEVISION APPEARANCE ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENTS OF COLOMBIA, PERU, AND PANAMA OF

BEING INVOLVED IN THE TRAFFICKING , ALLUDING TO THE
NEPHEW OF A COLOMBIA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WITHOUT GIVING
THE NAME (THERE IS NO DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER FOR
THIS ASSERTION). AT THE SAME TIME, HE ACCUSED OF THE
SAME CRIME RELATIVES OF GENERAL TORRIJOS AND OF GENERAL
MORALES BERMUDEZ, PRESIDENT OF PERU, BASED ON THE CO-
INCIDENCE, OPPORTUNITY DENIED BY THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON, THAT A NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER OF THE SAME NAME
HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

G. INFORMATION FROM MANILA OF A PRIVATE NATURE, INDICATES TO
US THAT THE SAME SENATOR WOLFF, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. FREE (SIC), A
PERSON CONNECTED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE, REFERRED TO COLOMBIA
IN HIGHLY DEROGATORY TERMS AT A DINNER.

H. ACCORDING TO CORREPODENTS' REPORTS IN BOGOTA,
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THE ULTRA SECRET DOCUMENT PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC WAS UNEXPECTEDLY CITED IN THE FRENCH NEWSPAPER
"LE MONDE". THESE REPORTS DEALT WITH THE EXPOSURE OF TWO
MINISTERS; THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOR HAVING GIVEN GOOD
REFERENCES TO NORBERTO MORENO CARILLO--ARRESTED IN
POPAYAN, NOVEMBER 2, 1976, WITH FIVE KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ORDERED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF THE NATION TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE. THE RESULT WAS THAT
THE REFERENCES DID NOT IMPLICATE THE PERSON GIVING THEM AS
THE ACCOMPLICE OR ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT OF THE PERSON
RECEIVING THEM, BUT WERE ONLY A FORMALITY OF THE COLOMBIAN
PENAL PROCESS. THE REFERENCES WERE GIVEN BY COLONEL EFRAIM

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O R 161620Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6405
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
DEA HQS WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 1538

DEPT FOR ARA AND S/NM
GENEVA FOR MATHEA FALCO
WHITE HOUSE FOR BOURNE
DEA FOR BENSINGER

MARTINEZ ROCHI ON PAPER BEARING THE SEAL OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, WHICH PROBABLY WAS THE BASIS FOR CONFUSING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. THIS ASTONISHING SUPERFICIALITY LED TO THE NAME OF GENERAL ABRAHAM VARON VALENCIA BEING GIVEN AS THE AUTHOR OF THE REFERENCES. AS REGARDS MINISTER OSCAR MONTOYA MONTOYA, IT IS NOT TRUE THAT HE HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH ALBERTO PRIETO ESCOBAR. SOME TELEPHONE CALLS CONCERNING TRAFFICKING IN COFFEE MADE FROM HIS OFFICE BY A SECRETARY WERE INTERCEPTED AND RECORDED. ON THE CONTRARY, DR. MONTOYA DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF IN HIS ACTIVITY AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS WHILE FILLING THE POSITION AS GOVERNOR OF ANTIOQUIA/ ALSO, MR. MARTIN SUAREZ SARABIA, AN UNKNOWN NAME, IS CITED AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (SIXTH COMMISSION). THE PRESIDENT OF THE SIXTH COMMISSION IS SENATOR JUSTO PASTOR CASTELLANOS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT--ALTHOUGH HIS NAME IS NOT MENTIONED ANYWHERE, BUT THAT OF HIS SISTER HILDA DUARTE SOTELO IS--DR. ABELARDO DUARTE SOTELO, RETIRED FROM SERVICE
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AS THE VICE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT ANY ACCUSATION EITHER COLOMBIAN OR NORTH AMERICAN, AGAINST HIM.

I. THE SAME ULTRA SECRET DOCUMENT ACCUSES MR. ANIBAL TURBAY, NEPHEW OF THE CANDIDATE JULIO CESAR TURBAY AYALA OF HAVING RECEIVED LARGE SUMS OF MONEY FROM AND OF BELONGING TO THE JOSE MANUEL PARDO URREA NETWORK OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. DURING THE LAST MONTHS, MR. TURBAY HAS STAYED IN THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD INDUCE CREDENCE IN THIS STORY. IT IS NO LESS TRUE THAT DR. JULIO CESAR TURBAY, CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC, HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF ATTACKS OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED NATURE, WHICH EXPLAINS WHY THESE STORIES, COLLECTED FROM THE POLITICAL MEDIA WITHOUT BEING VERIFIED, HAVE BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AND AUTHORITY IN A SECRET AND OFFICIAL REPORT.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES KNOWS THAT WITHIN COLOMBIAN DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES THE PRESENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN HAS PROCEEDED WITH PARTICULAR VIRULENCE AND THE USE OF SUCH INFORMATION SERVES TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF TRUTH TO GOSSIP PICKED UP IN BOGOTA, WHICH IS NOT SUPPORTED

BY ANY INVESTIGATION ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT,
WHICH HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO DELIVERING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
COLOMBIA POSSIBLE CLUES ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS IN SOME
CASES, AND IN OTHERS, POLITICAL STORIES THAT HAVE CIRCULATED.
FOR SOME TIME AND HAVE BEEN COLLECTED WITHOUT ANY ANALYSIS.

THE GOOD NAME OF COLOMBIA HAS BEEN COMPROMISED BY THE
PUBLICATION OF THESE REPORTS. AT THE SAME TIME, AS THE
AMBASSADOR KNOWS, THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN ITS VARIOUS FACTIONS
(CHINESE, SOVIET, CUBAN) HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY
OF THE SPEED WITH WHICH SUCH UNFOUNDED REPORTS HAVE BEEN
LEAKED, WHICH MAKES IT APPEAR THAT THE SO-CALLED "ESTABLISHMENT"
AND THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF IS A SYNDICATE OF DELINQUENTS. END TEXT
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Message Attributes

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